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FIELD RESEARCH WITHOUT THE SOCIAL SCIENCE BIAS.

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IN A SOCIAL SCIENCE FIELD RESEARCH PROJECT 80 YOUTH IN THE BEDFORD-STUYVESANT AREA OF BROOKLYN WILL BE TRAINED TO GATHER DATA ABOUT THEIR COMMUNITY AND WILL BE TAUGHT TO CODE AND EVALUATE THEIR FINDINGS. FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE COMMUNITY SURVEY, ONE-HALF OF THE TRAINEES WILL CONTINUE IN A 6-MONTH TRAINING PROGRAM IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION, TO BE FOLLOWED BY JOB PLACEMENT IN EITHER THE BEDFORD STUYVESANT RESTORATION CORPORATION OR IN OTHER COMMUNITY AGENCIES. A FURTHER REPORT ON THE PROJECT IS PLANNED. THIS ARTICLE IS PUBLISHED IN "THE CENTER FORUM," VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2. (NH)

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The school and community aides will be put through a two-week training session by Project Beacon in September.

A second part of the program is a Learning Center for crash-reading instruction for 100 students from grades three to six who are both the school's most disruptive students and poorest readers.

The center will be set up in rented space in a neighborhood academy. Six Project Beacon teachers will staff it. Yeshiva will train four community residents to assist.

Four ten-week intensive reading courses will be given to 25 children at a time. Formal instruction will be mixed with recreation. The remedial instruction itself will employ a variety of theories not limited to those developed at Yeshiva, trying to fit the best one to the student. These will include teaching machines.

In a third part of the program, all 53 teachers in the school will be put through in-service training, including

chapter chairman, a community representative, and Dr. Gordon, as project coordinator) that will "assume responsibility for planning and operating the program."

But the actual situation differs in several respects. The program is already planned. A process of electing the one community representative has not been considered yet. And the existing district board is to retain authority over the project.

Dr. Gordon as program coordinator is theoretically answerable to the governing board (and answerable to himself to the extent that he is a board member). The board is to be charged with evaluating the services provided by Yeshiva. But if these services are found wanting, Dr. Gordon said in a recent interview, he would halt the experiment.

As already noted, the relationship of all this to the board's mandate for decentralization is distant. Dr. Gordon conceives of decentralization, he says, in

## Field Research

### Without the 'Social Science Bias'

In the next three weeks, some 80 Center-trained interviewers will be completing one of the most novel social science field research projects attempted in the city. The trainees are residents of Bedford-Stuyvesant. Most of them are young. When they were recruited for the project in July, they were inexperienced. When the field work is completed at the end of the summer, many will be on their way to jobs in community planning and organization.

The project's goal is twofold: to supply the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corp., the community-based rehabilitation agency organized by Sen. Robert Kennedy, with planning data for its program, and to lay the base for training community leaders. The trainees were picked for this potential. The experience in field work, it is hoped, will give them seasoning and a basis for acting on community problems.

The Center's role, under the direction of Leroy Miller, is only the first part of the project. Ten lead interviewers, college-trained and most of them from Bedford-Stuyvesant, underwent an intensive

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gram, the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corp. plans to place 20 of the graduates on its own staff as community organizers and in other planning capacities. The other 20, it is planned, will be placed in similar capacities with other community-oriented agencies, both private and governmental.

The *Forum* will run a more detailed story of the project in the field in September.

## Almanac

BORN, to David Outerbridge's wife Lilias, a fourth son, Joshua Elkins, on July 30, in New York Hospital.

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DISSEMINATION: The Center's film, *Green Years*, was taken to London last month by a deputy parks commissioner for showing

most disruptive students and poorest readers.

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In a third part of the program, all 53 teachers in the school will be put through in-service training, including weekend workshops, continuing support from Yeshiva faculty, and individual training by Project Beacon teachers. A variety of ideas will be employed here also.

Finally, a new science program developed and field-tested by McGraw-Hill, which emphasizes inductive reasoning, will be introduced throughout the school.

According to the experiment's prospectus, the project provides for a governing board (made up of a district board member, the district superintendent, the school's principal, the PTA president, the UFT

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As already noted, the relationship of all this to the board's mandate for decentralization is distant. Dr. Gordon conceives of decentralization, he says, in terms of shifting more authority for running the schools to the teacher and not necessarily to the community.

Later this year, in a separate project, he will prepare with Harry Gottesfeld, a colleague at Yeshiva, the curriculum for storefront community workshops designed to prepare parents for participating in the school's management. The city-wide effort is reportedly to be administered by Rev. Milton Galamison of the Siloam Presbyterian Church in Bedford-Stuyvesant, and supported by a grant from Ford.

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The Center's role, under the direction of Leroy Miller, is only the first part of the project. Ten lead interviewers, college-trained and most of them from Bedford-Stuyvesant, underwent an intensive two-week training session at the Center. This was followed by a two-week session for the 80 trainees. The 12-page questionnaire drawn from these meetings is the basis for the current survey. It attempts to assess what residents think about their community, and encourages the interviewers to observe and rate the physical condition of the streets and buildings and the use to which they are put.

The trainees will be taught how to code and evaluate the data collected.

In September, 40 of the trainees will be picked for a six-month training program in community organization. Most of the others will return to school. The organization that will develop this program is yet to be selected.

At the end of the six-month pro-

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EPHEMERA: Seven out of every ten adults in the country think our public schools are doing a good job of preparing children for the future, a Gallup poll showed recently.

At the same time, the poll held that 48 per cent of adults think parents are doing a good job of preparing children for the future compared to 39 per cent who think parents are doing a poor job.

It might or might not be relevant but other recent Gallup polls show that less than half of all adults in the country know the name of their congressman; three out of ten don't know the name of their mayor; fewer than half interviewed can identify Premier Ky.